



# UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

## Frequently asked questions for potential applicants to the MSc Diagnostic Radiography

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### Do I need to study a specific Degree?

Yes, a science background is required this includes any science at level 8 (Regulated health Science such as Nursing, OT, SLP etc. Applied Sciences such as Genetics etc. Health Sciences of any type. General science such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer science, Exercise and sports science, Agricultural science etc.), as well as any technology, engineering and maths. Sometimes referred to as STEM.

However, the better qualified the better. Having double degrees, or master's degrees makes you more competitive.

If you have a level 7 degree you are not eligible. If your degree is not STEM you are not eligible.

We require a level 8 Honours Degree in Science. So previous students in this situation have taken a 1-year MSc in Anatomy at UCC and this is a suitable qualification. <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx52/>

### What classification of degree do I need?

A 2:2 with honours in a level 8 degree is the minimum. Pass degrees are ineligible. This means your degree must be level 8. However, the higher the classification the more competitive your application will be.

### Do I need Physics?

No, we will teach you the physics needed in the course.

### Is it competitive?

Yes, the course is oversubscribed with applicants each year. It is important that you pay attention to your application, complete all elements of it, make it an example of your best work. It is a good idea to have others read over your applications to ensure that it demonstrates clear motivations applicable to Diagnostic Radiography. If you are unsuccessful, you can re-apply the following year. Common issues with rejected applications include:

- Too short, rushed, with insufficient detail to judge motivation
- No mention of hobbies, achievements, extra-curricular learning
- It is copied and pasted from another application and refers to another course.
- It has spelling mistakes and grammatical errors.
- It focusses on what you have done in the past not on your motivation to do Diagnostic Radiography.
- It is unspecific, shows little knowledge of what the job actually entails

### What can I do to improve my chances?

1. Get the best degree classification you can
2. Organise a visit to an x-ray department. Reflect on what you see. If you cannot visit a department look up online resources.
3. Visit our website, understand the course structure and fees <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx26/>
4. Watch our videos <https://youtu.be/Wlv4GjnOOS0>
5. Understand how your honours project could relate to medical imaging
6. Take the free online course on life health and radiation <https://www.coursera.org/learn/life-health-radiation> and one on patient-centred care (PCC) approaches within diagnostic radiography <https://www.derby.ac.uk/short-courses-cpd/online/free-courses/patient-centred-care-diagnostic-radiography-toolkit/>

7. Consider what personal qualities do you think you need to be a radiographer
8. Consider why you want to be part of the radiography programme
9. Consider how will you apply what you have previously learned in your first degree to Radiography
10. Consider how the research you carried out in your degree might apply to Radiography. Consider the transferrable skills you developed.
11. Visit the post grad expo <https://www.ucc.ie/en/pg-expo/>
12. Complete all aspects of the application form. We want to hear about your volunteering, you extra-curricular learning, your part-time work, you medals, certificates, prizes, your overall achievements
13. Some applicants have undertaken the 1-year MSc in Anatomy at UCC
14. Some applicants have worked for a year and increased their work experience
15. Some applicants have gotten work experience as a HCE in Radiology to improve their knowledge and confirm their motivation.
16. Some applicants take up other non-academic or work related - community support, coaching, volunteering work, hobbies that exceed expectation.
17. Some applicants get help with their motivational statement, have others read it, improve it, so that it clearly explains reason for applying for course and shows evidence of understanding of what is required to study the course. The statement should also any particular skills and experience that will help them succeed on the course taken part in any other activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)

### Where do I apply?

You can apply for postgrad course through [www.UCC.ie/apply](http://www.UCC.ie/apply) Search for Code MSCDR

### What is the selection process?

1. Apply from December onwards
2. Shortlisting in April is based on degree classification, and written application.
3. Interview usually around May
4. 16 places offered based on the combination of application and interview.
5. Accept June – August
6. Begin late August / early September

### What is the course structure?

It is a 2-year, full time masters with 3 trimesters per year. See website <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx26/>

### For placement, are you assigned hospitals or do you have to find the placements yourself?

All placements will be arranged for you.

The courses alternates between blocks of academic lectures followed by blocks of clinical placement where students have the opportunity to put their learning into practice in the clinical setting.

In the clinical departments there would be clinical tutors who would meet you and guide you through each placement in conjunction with the clinical radiographers/radiation therapists.

## What are the English language requirements?

English language requirements can be found here

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/study/comparison/english/postgraduate/>

## What are the fees?

See website <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx26/>

The HSE are an important partner on this course. Where a student signs up to work for the HSE for two years, the HSE will sponsor each student that registers to the amount of 5000 euro. No special application is needed. Registering on the course and signing an agreement with the HSE secures this funding.

Money Matters discussed here for UCC students.

<https://youtu.be/jjPDK7CUBzk>

It is also useful to look at the STUDENT FINANCE 101 Manual. Explore how you can fund your studies at one of Ireland's leading research universities.

[www.ucc.ie/pgfundingguide](http://www.ucc.ie/pgfundingguide)

## Can I work Part-time

Yes you can, but it is advised that you plan not to. This is a full-time course with three semesters per year. Working part-time will result in burnout.

Consider a student loan instead, this can ease the pressure during study and can be paid back when you are earning a graduate wage.

Bol

<https://personalbanking.bankofireland.com/borrow/loans/student-loans/five-percent-student-loan/features-benefits/>

AIB

<https://aib.ie/our-products/loans/education-loans>

*Subject to approval, you can choose an interest only repayment option and make minimum monthly interest repayments for the duration of your course (maximum 4 years). Interest-only repayment options may appear cheaper in the short term but will be more expensive over the term of the loan. When you complete your course, you will begin making full repayments on the total amount you owe over a maximum of five years*

## How much does it pay?

Pay scales change all the time. The HSE pay scales are available here

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/benefitservices/pay/>

As of 2019 a graduate Radiographer can earn 35 –50k pa. Increasing to 70k pa with promotion, extra qualifications and experience. Wages can be supplemented by some on-call work.

Private salaries vary and have different terms and conditions.

## Describe the working hours of a diagnostic radiographer.

Typically, it is 9-5 or 8-4 as a base.

Some hospitals work 8am-8pm, so in these cases, you might work 3 days on. Radiography is 24/7 so

there is lots of on-call work too. Night shifts are usually from 10pm until 8am. There is often 1 radiographer covering Emergency, and one covering CT. Depending on where you are in the country the situation changes. In smaller hospitals radiographers tend to be at home, and are called in four cases. In larger hospitals, the radiographers tend to stay in the hospital, and there is on-call accommodation provided

#### Would it be considered a stressful and pressurising career?

it is a very individual thing. Stress comes from many sources, not just from work. However, one great thing about a career in diagnostic radiography is that you can adapt your career to life circumstances. Many radiographers choose to go part-time at some point during their career, to focus on other aspects of their life.

in the early stages of a radiographer's career, many radiographers take on extra hours to earn some extra money, and also often undertake a Masters in a specific area such as ultrasound computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, nuclear medicine, interventional radiology, or other specialties.

#### Some advice from a student

<https://radkat90.wordpress.com/2021/03/29/preparing-for-a-september-start/>